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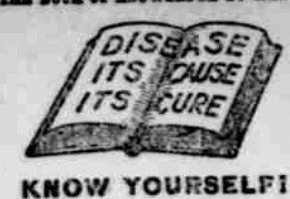
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The Trouble With the Meat.

Stepping into a small restaurant, a grumpy old man demanded of the waiter a certain piece of meat he had in the show window.
"But," said the waiter, "we—"
"No buts," replied the old man. "You bring me what I ask for or I won't get anything here at all."
Rather than lose a customer, the waiter did as he was told and, getting the piece of meat, took it back to be cooked. After a long wait the meat was brought to the customer, who, instead of thanking the waiter, said, "Look here, young man, what is the matter with this meat?"
"Nothing is the matter with it, sir, except that the paint on it has formed a few blisters from the heat."
"Why, what do you mean by that?" asked the old man.
"Simply this," replied the waiter. "Those pieces of meat you saw in the window were not made to eat. They were made for advertising purposes, but you insisted, sir, upon having one of 'em."—Philadelphia Times.

Napoleon's Custodian at St. Helena.

Sir Hudson Lowe, the man appointed by England to be the custodian of the emperor, arrived at St. Helena on April 14, 1816. His appearance was not prepossessing. He was extraordinarily thin, with a stiff carriage. He had a long, bony face blotched with red and scanty hair of a dirty yellow color. His hollow eyes gleamed under thick reddish eyebrows, but were furtive and restless, never looking straight at any one save by stealth.
"That is a bad man," declared Napoleon when he had seen him. "His eye as he examined me was like a hyena's caught in a trap."
He really resembled this horrid, sly animal in its walk as well as in hair and eyes. He never sat down when he was talking, but swung about hesitatingly and with abrupt jerks.—Stokoe. "With Napoleon at St. Helena."

The Stork's Lazy House Building.

The most interesting sight in the Rotterdam zoo was the stork, whose nest is set high on a pinnacle of the buffalo house. He was building in the leisurely style of the British workman. He would negligently descend from the heavens with a stick. This he would lay on the fabric and then carefully perform his toilet, looking round and down all the time to see that every one else was busy. Whenever his eye lighted on a toddling child or a perambulator it visibly brightened. "My true work!" he seemed to say. "This nest building is mere bypaths of industry." After drinking and overlooking and congratulating himself thus for a few minutes he would stroll off over the housetops for another stick. He was unquestionably a king of the garden.—Lucas in "A Wanderer in Holland."

The Way Out.

A well known Boston physician was on his way to his office one winter morning when the sidewalks were a glare of ice. While going down the street he met a lady coming in the opposite direction. The lady was a stranger to him, although he was not unknown to her.
In trying to avoid each other on the icy pavement they both slipped and came to the sidewalk facing each other, with their pedal extremities considerably entangled. While the polite doctor was debating in his mind what was the proper thing to do under the trying circumstances the problem was solved by the quick witted lady, who quietly remarked:
"Doctor, if you will be good enough to rise and pick out your legs I will take what remains."

Safety Valves of the World.

Terrific as are the forces of volcanic action, they have served and do yet serve their ordained purpose in the magnificent scheme of cosmic development. Volcanoes form a natural vent for the pentup internal forces resulting from the slow cooling and consolidation of the earth's mass. They act as the safety valves of the world, without which the crust of the earth would in all probability burst with explosive force and with a resulting cataclysm appalling to contemplate. Volcanoes tend, in fact, to maintain the normal stable equilibrium between the interior and the outer surface of the world.

Strong Hold.

Bill—Experiments with thousands of subjects have shown that the average man attains his maximum strength in his thirty-first year.

Jill—A woman's strong age is twenty-eight, I suppose.

"Why?"
"Haven't you noticed how they hold on to it?"—Yonkers Statesman.

A Richer Strike.

"Is it true that Maude refused a man worth a million?"
"It is."
"Was she crazy or in love?"
"Neither. She accepted a man worth two millions."—Boston Transcript.

Dodging Indigestion.

Hoax—Sillicus was engaged to an heiress. I wonder why he broke it off?
Joax—He had an attack of indigestion, and the doctor told him to avoid all rich things.—Philadelphia Record.

Spiteful.

"Why do you hate him?"
"He has been knocking me to the girl I go with."
"What did he tell her?"
"What my salary is."—Houston Post.

He Was Dense.

Blobbs—When she wasn't looking I kissed her. Slobbs—What did she do?
Blobbs—Refused to look at me for the rest of the evening.—Philadelphia Record.

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